Richmond Refinery LPS Bulletin - Safety

Broken Wrist Near South Isomax T-900





IPS Control: 1691613

Location: Hydroprocessing South Isomax

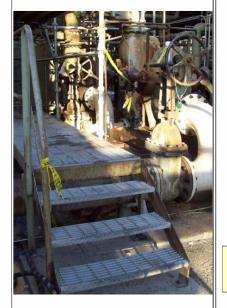
Contact Information:
Jason Waldrop (Isomax OA)

(510) 242-1256 swal@chevron.com

Photos:



Stairs near TP-900 where operator fell



Every Task, the Right Way, Every Time

Incident Description:

On October 27, 2009, an operator was performing housekeeping after a maintenance job at T-900 in South Isomax. The operator was placing locks back into the lock box and about to open a block valve located next to a set of 4 stairs.

The stairs have a handrail on one side and do not have a handrail on the other side due to a pinch point with the valve wheel.

The operator took a step backwards on the stairs, his ankle rolled, and he fell back onto his hands, breaking his left wrist.

Investigation Findings:

- 1) The operator was not holding the left handrail while walking backwards down stairs (an LPSA was not performed).
- 2) There is only 1 handrail on the left side of the stairs (no three-point contact available & Safety in Designs [SID] requires handrails on both sides).

Lessons Learned / Business Practices:

- 1) Performing an LPSA before all routine activities can reveal potential risks.
- 2) Three-point-contact should be available and practiced when ascending or descending stairs and ladders.

What Worked Well:

1) Quick response by nearby operators allowed for immediate medical attention.

Recommendations:

- 1) Reinforce that the use of LSPA can play a role in preventing similar injuries.
- Design and install a handrail on the stairs and platform between T-900 & TP-900. TP-900 discharge isolation valve hand wheel may have to be redesigned, as well, to allow for the installation of another handrail.

Tenets of Operations Violated:

4) Always follow safe work practices and procedures.

This document is intended for company workforce only. Nothing herein should be construed as a legal determination of causation or responsibility. The company makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, about the thoroughness, accuracy, or suitability of use by others of any of the information contained herein.